

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments, and for her careful consideration of the prior art. Claims 1-30 have been amended to a format consistent with allowed Claims 31-50. Specifically, Claims 1-30 have been amended to refer to a "necked" nonwoven web instead of a "neckable" nonwoven web.

The rejection of Claims 1-21 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,456,971 to Fahmy is respectfully traversed. As the Examiner correctly indicated in the Office Action, Fahmy fails to teach a "necked" nonwoven web having discrete regions comprising first and second fibers, wherein the first fibers differ from the second fibers.

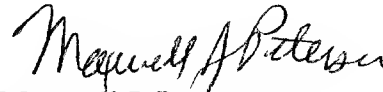
The rejection of Claims 22, 23 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fahmy in view of U.S. Patent 5,622,772 to Stokes et al., is respectfully traversed. These claims depend from Claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Neither Fahmy nor Stokes et al., alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a necked nonwoven web having discrete regions comprising first and second fibers, wherein the first fibers differ from the second fibers.

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Applicants believe that the claims, as now presented, are in condition for allowance. Again, Applicants attorney thanks the Examiner for the thoughtful analysis, and would appreciate a telephone call if any issues remain unresolved. The undersigned can be reached at 847-490-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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